

(c) a recording section for recording said compressed video data on a recording medium;

(d) said recording section further recording on said recording medium compression rate data indicating a compression rate of said video data compressed by said compression section;

and

(e) said recording section further recording, on a time code track of said recording medium, identification signals corresponding to different ones of said source mediums.

10. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 9 wherein said source mediums are source tapes and said recording medium is a tape.

11. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 9 wherein said supplied video data is video data of various data formats, said compression section compresses said video data of various data formats, and said recording apparatus further comprises a formatting section for formatting said video data of various data formats compressed by said compression section into an archive format.

12. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

(f) a setting section for setting a compression rate used in said compression section; and

(g) a control section for controlling a travel speed of said recording medium so that said recording medium travels at a speed corresponding to said compression rate set by the setting section.

13. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

said compression section comprises a plurality of compression encoders, each for compression encoding video data that originated from a respective one of said source mediums; and

said apparatus further comprises a multiplexer for time division multiplexing the compressed video from said plurality of compression encoders;

wherein said recording section records the multiplexed video on said recording medium.

14. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 9, wherein said recording section further records said compression rate data on said time code track.

15. (New) Recording method comprising:

- (a) supplying video data that originated from a plurality of source mediums;
- (b) compressing said video data;
- (c) recording said compressed video data on a recording medium;
- (d) recording on said recording medium compression rate data indicating a compression rate of said video data compressed by said compression section; and

(e) recording, on a time code track of said recording medium, identification signals corresponding to different ones of said source mediums.

16. (New) The recording method of claim 15 wherein said source mediums are source tapes and said recording medium is a tape.

17. (New) Recording apparatus comprising:

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(a) a video-data section for supplying video data that originated from a plurality of source mediums or channels;

(c) a multiplexing section for time division multiplexing said video data; and

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(c) a recording section for recording said multiplexed video data on a recording tape in tracks thereof, with each track having an upper and lower portion;

(d) wherein video originating from different ones of said source mediums or channels is recorded in upper and lower portions of a given track.

18. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 17 wherein said recording section reserves a space in between said upper and lower portions of a given track for editing.

19. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a compression section for compressing said video data prior to said time division multiplexing thereof.

20. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 19, wherein said compression section comprises a plurality of compression encoders, each for compressing the video data of a respective one of said source mediums.

21. (New) The recording apparatus of claim 17, wherein:

said recording section further records on said recording tape a compression rate of said video data compressed by said compression section; and

said recording section further recording, on a time code track of said recording tape, identification signals corresponding to different ones of said source mediums.

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22. (New) Recording method comprising:

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- (a) supplying video data that originated from a plurality of source mediums or channels;
 - (c) time division multiplexing said video data; and
 - (c) recording said multiplexed video data on a recording tape in tracks thereof, with each track having an upper and lower portion;
 - (d) wherein video originating from different ones of said source mediums or channels is recorded in upper and lower portions of a given track.

23. (New) The recording method of claim 22, further comprising reserving a space in between said upper and lower portions of a given track for editing.

24. (New) The recording method of claim 22, further comprising compressing said video data prior to said time division multiplexing thereof.

25. (New) Reproduction apparatus comprising:

- (a) a reproduction section for reproducing time division multiplexed video data from a recording tape having tracks;
- (b) each of said tracks having an upper and lower portion;
- (c) said video data having originated from different source mediums or channels prior to having been recorded on said recording tape;
- (d) said reproduction section reproducing said video data of different ones of said source mediums or channels from upper and lower portions of a given track; and